

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KUWAIT 02422 041101Z
ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 INT-05 CIAE-00 INR-07
NSAE-00 STR-04 SS-15 SP-02 /051 W
-----041109Z 124499 /14

P R 041020Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
TO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
SECSTATE WASHDC 7925
USDOC WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 2422

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: BEXP, PFOR, KU
SUBJECT: US PETROCHEMICAL MISSION: INTERNATIONAL MINERALS AND
CHEMICALS AND ARAB BOYCOTT

1. PETROCHEMICAL MISSION MEMBER JULIAN SOBIN, VICE PRESIDENT
OF INTERNATIONAL MINERALS AND CHEMICALS (IMC, DURING CALL ON
AMBASSADOR MAY 3, ASKED FOR ADVICE ON APPROACHING
DAMASCUS BOYCOTT OFFICE REGARDING CORRESPONDENCE
COMPANY HAS HAD WITH THAT ORGANIZATION. SOBIN SAID
THAT IN JULY, 1976 LETTER, BOYCOTT OFFICE SECRETARY
GENERAL MAHGOUB ASKED FOR INFORMATION ABOUT PROJECT
IN ISRAEL, IN WHICH SUBSIDIARY OF INTERNATIONAL MINERALS
AND CHEMICALS (IMC), CONTINENTAL ORE CORPORATION (COC),
HAD ALLEGEDLY PARTICIPATED. IN OCTOBER IMC REPLIED
THAT, WHILE ISRAELI PRESS ARTICLE HAD REPORTED THAT
COC SUBSIDIARY WAS CONSIDERING INVESTMENT IN DEAD SEA
BRINE PROCESSING FACILITY ABOUT 1960, ALL CONSIDERATION
OF THIS PROJECT HAD BEEN ABANDONED IN 1963-4, AND IMC
HAD IN FACT SUBSEQUENTLY DIVESTED ITSELF OF COC SUB-
SIDIARY WHICH HAD CONTEMPLATED PROJECT. DESPITE THIS
INFORMATION, SOBIN SAID MAHGOUB HAD REPLIED IMMEDIATELY
TO IMC LETTER, ASKING FOR PROOF THAT IMC HAD SOLD ITS
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INTEREST IN ALLEGED INVESTMENT IN ISRAEL. IMC DID NOT
SEE HOW IT COULD PROVE HAD DIVESTED ITSELF OF INVEST-
MENT IT NEVER HAD AND DID NOT REPLY. SOBIN SAID, AS A
RESULT, IT WAS NOW ON BOYCOTT LIST.

2. IN RESPONSE TO SOBIN'S QUERY, AMBASSADOR SAID THAT
WHILE US POLICY WAS, OF COURSE, TO OPPOSE THE BOYCOTT,

HE KNEW OF NOTHING WHICH WOULD PREVENT A REPRESENTATIVE
OF A U.S. FIRM FROM DISCUSSING BOYCOTT PROBLEMS WITH
THE BOYCOTT OFFICE. HOWEVER, HE ADVISED SOBIN TO CONSULT WITH
EMBASSY (E/C CHIEF) WHEN IN DAMASCUS AS BEST PROCEDURE
TO FOLLOW IN ORDER TO CLARIFY THIS SITUATION.
MAESTRONE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PETROLEUM, MINERALS, BOYCOTTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 04-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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ISecure: 1
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Review Exemptions: n/a
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Review Release Date: n/a
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